

Today, U.S. Rep. John Hall issued the following statement on the ongoing Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill:

“After forty-five days and counting, it’s clear that BP is far more concerned about its own corporate welfare than about cleaning up the oil spill that is devastating the Gulf of Mexico. Even after everything that has happened since the Deepwater Horizon sank, BP still refuses to tell the American people exactly how much oil is leaking, and what effect the hundreds of thousands of gallons of chemicals they are spewing into the Gulf will have on the environment and the health of the people who live down there. BP needs to come clean and provide the scientists the data they need to figure out how to clean up the spill to reduce the amount of oil that may soon be heading to a beach near you.

“Further, the arrogance and hubris of BP CEO Tony Hayward truly knows no bounds. I can only imagine what the families of the men who died on the Deepwater Horizon, or the fishermen who make their living on the Gulf, think of his plea to all of us that, ‘You know, I’d like my life back.’ And his comment that the spill is not going to cause big problems because the gulf ‘is a very big ocean’ and ‘the environmental impact of this disaster is likely to [be] very, very modest,’ shows a callous disregard for the environment that sadly we’ve come to expect from oil companies.

“It’s time to get serious about moving away from oil drilling, which pollutes our planet. It’s time to invest in clean, renewable energy like solar, wind, and geothermal. It’s time to get serious about energy efficiency. And it’s time to hold big corporations like BP responsible for the damage they are inflicting. The federal government needs to take a leadership role in the Gulf. We can’t trust BP to fix its own mistakes. Congress and the Administration need to hold BP accountable to make sure that this company, which has made billions in profits from gouging American consumers, pays every last dime of the costs of the cleanup.”